



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE CAPITOL
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106-1591

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MEMBER
BANKS COMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

The Honorable Edward Meyer
The Honorable Richard Roy
Members of the Environment Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT

Re: Proposed House Bill No. 5481

Dear Chairmen Meyer, Roy and Members of the Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity for the committee to consider Proposed H.B. 5481, An Act Authorizing Bonds of the State for the Restoration of the Poquonnock River. The Poquonnock River is located in Groton, CT and is within and adjoins the Bluff Point Coastal Preserve. The river has been recognized in the past as the cleanest river in Connecticut and supports many recreational uses including clamming, fishing, kayaking and boating. However many activities that occurred in the Poquonnock River have ceased to exist and other activities are threatened due to long term sedimentation and embayment of the Baker's Cove portion of the river and the migration of the outer barrier beach. Activities that have ceased to exist include the loss of an abundant scallop crop, the loss of smelt and herring runs and the virtual disappearance of blue crab and the winter flounder population. Activities that are threatened include boating and recreational and commercial dockage and mooring of boats. And the siltation and loss of viable clam and oyster grounds.

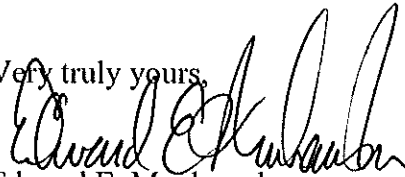
I have attached four pages of aerial photos and a map from 1888 to illustrate changes that have occurred over the years to the outer barrier beach and the wetlands in the Baker's Cove Area. The 1888 map has an overlay that shows the shrinkage of the wetlands in the Baker's Cove Area. The 1888 map also shows that at that time there was only the railroad line which crossed the Baker's Cove portion of the Poquonnock River; the later aerial photos show Thomas Road also crossing the cove; which I believe has

caused the embayment and siltation problems which have occurred in Baker's Cove. One of the aerial photos shows the location of the local Elks Lodge just seaward of the railroad tracks. At low tide there is barely enough water in that area to float a boat, where in the past there were several feet of water. Further seaward of the Elks Lodge there exist numerous docks, including a commercial lobster fishing dock, all of which are experiencing increasing siltation and are in jeopardy of losing sufficient depth of water to be functional.

The outer barrier beach was, prior to the 1938 hurricane, attached to what is now an island, Bushy Point. The main channel and flow of the river remained unchanged by the hurricane; but in the recent past that has changed. The tip of the barrier beach has hooked northward and has attaché itself to what formerly was a separate marshy island that marked the north edge of the river channel. This has changed the path of the river and its outflow. I believe this dramatic change is due to the years of siltation and embayment of the Baker's Cove portion of the river.

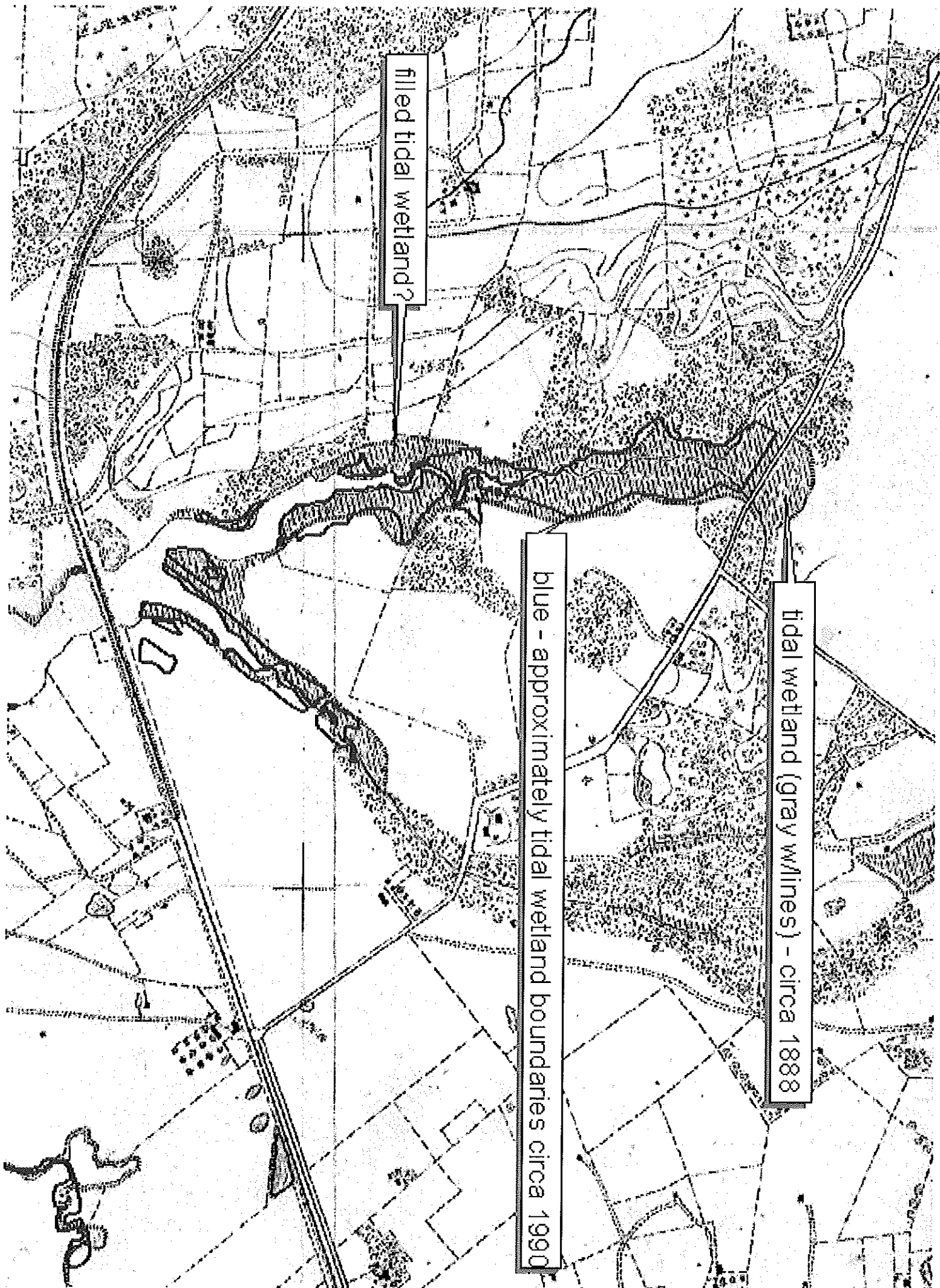
I am requesting funds from the state to reverse this process and restore the activities and natural resources that have been eliminated and prevent further deterioration of the river environment. I appreciate the committee's interest in this matter

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Edward E. Moukawsher', written in a cursive style.

Edward E. Moukawsher


40th District Representative



filled tidal wetland?

tidal wetland (gray wlines) - circa 1888

blue - approximately tidal wetland boundaries circa 1990



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Aerial survey of Connecticut 1934 photograph 00420



Title
Subject - LCSH
Coverage - Spatial
Creator
Contributors
Date - Created
Type
Format
Source - Location
Relation
Town(s) Covered
X Coord
Y Coord
Publisher
Rights
File Name

Aerial survey of Connecticut 1934 photograph 00420
Aerial photographs; Connecticut; Groton
1:12000
Fairchild Aerial Survey Co.; Connecticut Air National Guard
Connecticut State Planning Board
1934-04
Image
jp2
9 x 7 in., b&w photograph; Connecticut State Library, State Archives, RG 089: 11a
<http://www.cslib.org/aerials/>
Groton
-72.0406
41.3211
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CT1934_00420.jp2

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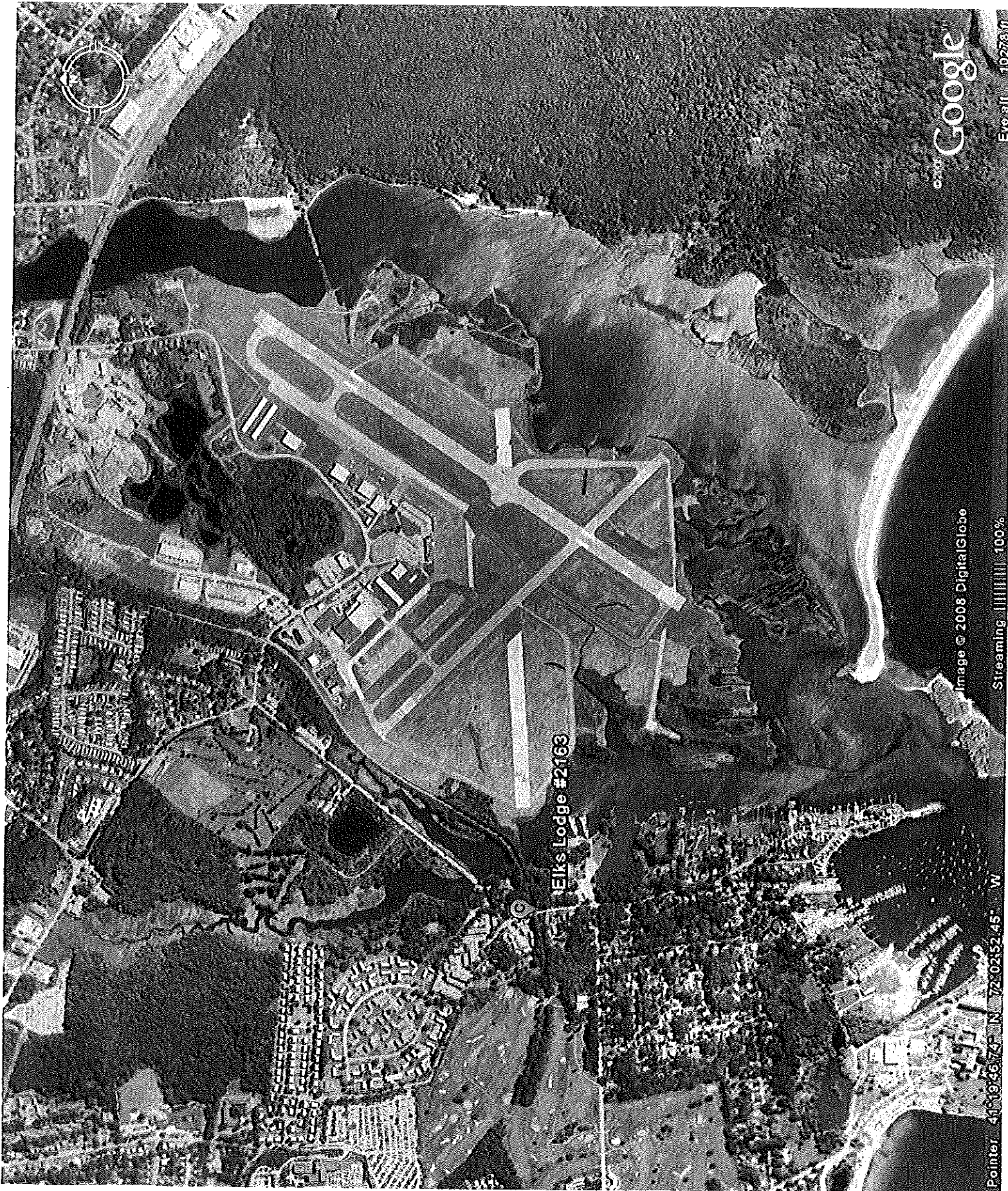
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Point: 41°19'15.76" N 72°03'16.25" W

Streaming: ||||| 100%

Eye alt: 4446 ft



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Eye alt 10270m

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Elks Lodge #2163

Pointer 41°19'46.74" N 72°02'52.45" W


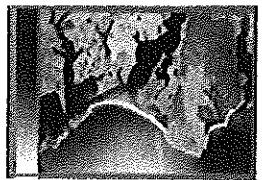

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Aerial survey of Connecticut 1934 photograph 00420

Title	Aerial survey of Connecticut 1934 photograph 00420
Subject - LCSH	Aerial photographs; Connecticut; Groton
Coverage - Spatial	1:12000
Creator	Fairchild Aerial Survey Co.; Connecticut Air National Guard
Contributors	Connecticut State Planning Board
Date - Created	1934-04
Type	Image
Format	jp2
Source - Location	9 x 7 in., b&w photograph; Connecticut State Library, State Archives, RG 089: 11a
Relation	http://www.cslib.org/aerials/
Town(s) Covered	Groton
X Coord	-72.0406
Y Coord	41.3211
Publisher	Connecticut State Library
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